

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 22 being independent. Claims 1-22 have been amended herein. The amendments to the claims are made merely to improve their form, are not believed to affect the scope of the claims, and have been made for no reasons related to patentability.

Initially, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed June 7, 2002, by initialing and returning the Information Disclosure Citation form (Form PTO-1449) provided therewith. A copy of that Form PTO-1449 is included herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

The Examiner is also requested to clarify the objection to the drawings noted in the Office Action Summary. At item 10, it was indicated that the drawings filed on "05/05/05" were objected to. No further details were provided. Nevertheless, Applicants are presuming that the proposed drawing changes filed with the Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings dated May 2, 2002 has been approved. Applicants are submitting herewith a replacement drawing sheet incorporating those changes. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 11-13, 15, 17, 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by PCT International Publication No. WO 91/00566 (Harper et al.). Claims 3, 5, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable

over Harper et al. in view of European Patent Application No. 0 782 924 (Kanbayashi et al.). Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Harper et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,262,872 (Yoshimura et al.). Claims 10 and 21 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Harper et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,428,379 (Kaneko et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With the claimed arrangements and methods, execution of an NMI (Non Maskable Interrupt) process several times due to reception of chattering of a power supply switch can be prevented. For example, a non-volatile memory can store information (flag) representing a power switch ON status or a power switch OFF status. If a power supply switch is depressed and an NMI process is executed, the process is executed by referring to the information stored in the non-volatile memory. Referring to Fig. 1, if a flag shows a power OFF status, a process for turning a printer on is executed in the NMI process, whereas if the flag shows a power ON status, a process for turning the printer off (e.g., a capping operation) is executed in the NMI process. Even if the power supply switch is depressed, a mask is generated until the process is completed so that an NMI signal is not input to the CPU. Referring to Claim 6, when an abnormal signal is received, a process for prohibiting an NMI interruption is executed even if the power supply switch is depressed.

Harper et al. relates to a computer power management system. The system powers down various sections of the computer when they are not used. Clock signals to the various sections are turned off based upon demand so as to prolong battery life.

As understood by Applicants, although Harper et al. discloses a non-volatile memory provided in a memory card, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the non-volatile

memory storing a flag or information representing a power supply status. Thus, Harper et al. fails to disclose or suggest non-volatile memory means for retaining a power supply status flag and controlling changing of the flag, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 12. Further, Harper et al. is silent regarding abnormality detection and thus fails to disclose the abnormality detection means of Claim 6 or the abnormality detecting step of Claim 17, or setting prohibition of the NMI interrupt in accordance with an abnormal signal as recited in independent Claim 6, or the abnormality detected in the abnormality detecting step outputting a trigger signal in accordance with the abnormality and a mask signal is generated in accordance with the output trigger signal for making the signal from power switching means invalid by the generated mask signal, as is recited in independent Claim 17.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Harper et al. does not set prohibition of the NMI interrupt when the NMI interrupt signal is inputted for a designated number of times, as is recited in independent Claims 11 and 22.

Thus, Harper et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Kanbayashi et al. was cited by the Examiner for teaching a capping operation and a recovery operation. Yoshimura et al. was cited by the Examiner for teaching an image forming apparatus having a temperature sensor for sensing temperature abnormality and head voltage adjustment of a replacement recording head. Kaneko et al. was cited by the Examiner for teaching electrothermal conversion devices in an image

forming apparatus. However, these secondary citations are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Harper et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 22 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17 and 22. Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-10, 13-16 and 18-21 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW:mt